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# "The Old Home and the New"

From the Historical Magazine of  
Monongahela's Old-Home-Coming Week  
September 6-13, 1908

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With the Compliments of  
Boyd Crumrine, Washington, Pa.



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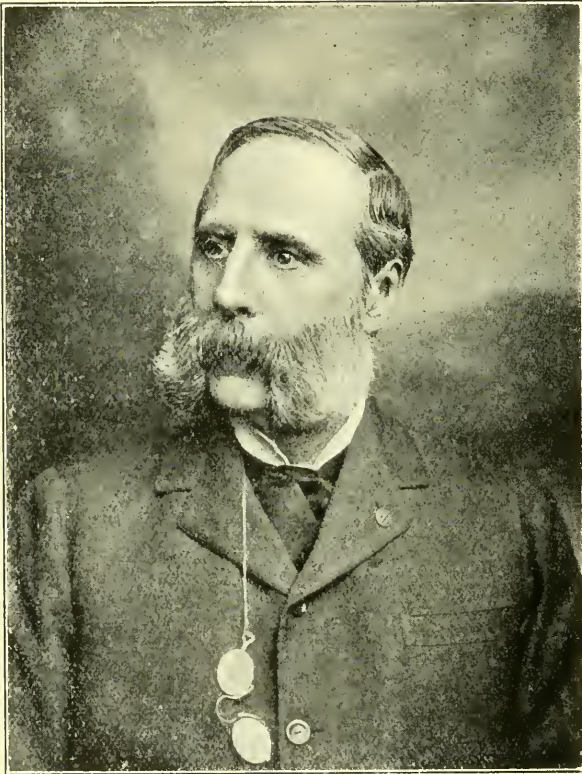
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*Brady Emmine*

## THE OLD HOME AND THE NEW.

FOR THE MONONGAHELA CITY OLD HOME-COMING ASSOCIATION.

By Boyd Crumrine, Washington, Pa.

Above the Egyptian mantel covering the wide-mouthed, not in use, but flower-fronted fire-place of the main sitting room of the restful Saegertown Inn, in which you spent the few days of your last vacation, are placed the graceful neck, head and antlers of a deer, an old-time Queen Anne's Musket, and in a long frame a legend in large German text, reading;

**"I am an old man and have had many troubles,  
but most of them never happened."**

The legend seems to teach us that although every life may have its trials and its struggles, yet that of all its troubles the most of them are from want of coolness and courage to anticipate and meet them as they come.

You, of the Monongahela City old Home-coming Association for the week of September 6-13, 1908, have opened your doors, not to strangers alone who are come for the first time and are welcomed, but to all who were native born, or at any time were residents among you, and now have come again to see what the old home looks like, and to meet at least a few of the old friends of other days. All who have so come in these days are yours and you are theirs; and if it be that any one shall say that he "is an old man and has had many troubles," may all these troubles be obliterated from memory by this week's entertainment!

Is there anywhere on earth one, not relapsed into utter savagery, who does not, whatever his age and whatever his condition in life, and wherever he may be, often turn to the thoughts of home, the place where he first came into life, or where in his strong young years he had built a home of his own? To every man and woman in this broad land of ours, or in any lands, there is at least one spot on earth, indelible forever in memory, to which the heart often and often turns, as it turns to-day to many a home along the Monongahela.

When the poet opens his soul to the infinite limits of spirit about him and speaks the words which fall into the minds of men to stay there, he speaks the words of truth, and truth is depth-moving and everlasting.

John Howard Payne, poet, play-writer and play-actor, was born in New York in 1791, the sixth of a family of nine children. His parents dying when he was about thirteen or fourteen, he never afterwards knew what it was to have a home. Although never, perhaps, in absolute want, yet he always felt himself poor, but was honored all over America, England and the Continent by the esteem of the great. He died at the age of sixty years on April 10, 1852, when United States Consul at Tunis in Africa, his play-writing and his play-acting days having long before ended. His mortal remains lay for thirty-two years marked by a monument erected to his memory in the Cemetery of St. George at Tunis, until, through the liberality

of Wm. W. Corcoran, and the love and sympathy of his countrymen, they were brought to the United States in 1883, and, as he belonged to the nation, re-interred in the Congressional Cemetery at Washington, D. C., whilst a thousand voices joined in singing his immortal melody of "Home, Sweet Home."

There is a tradition that, whilst this homeless wanderer was at one time in Paris, he was walking alone aimlessly about the suburbs of the city late at night, during a turbulent storm which harmonized well with his own spirit. As he passed a modest but comfortable cottage, the unblinded windows disclosed a well-warmed, well-lighted room containing the entire family. Several happy-looking young-lady daughters were filling the air with music, at the piano, whilst the white-capped mother with her knitting lying idle in her lap, and the be-spectacled father with his book overturned upon his knee, were both silently smiling at the tricks and antics of the younger boys and little ones scampering and tip-toeing from corner to corner about the floor. Was it at all strange that the tears which fell from the eyes of this homeless man, as he was held fixed to the pavement by this scene, would not stop until he had set down for the world to love forever the beautiful and soul-filling words of

#### HOME, SWEET HOME.

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble there is no place like home;  
A charm from the sky seems to hallow us there,  
Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere.

Home, Home, sweet, sweet Home.  
There's no place like Home. There's no place like Home.

"An exile from Home, splendor dazzles in vain;  
O, give me my lowly thatched cottage again.  
The birds singing gaily, that came at my call,—  
Give me them,—and the peace of mind dearer than all.

Home, Home, sweet, sweet Home.  
There's no place like Home. There's no place like Home.

"How sweet 'tis to sit 'neath a fond father's smile,  
And the cares of a mother to soothe and beguile.  
Let others delight mid new pleasures to roam,  
But give me, Oh, give me the pleasures of home.

Home, Home, sweet, sweet Home.  
There's no place like Home. There's no place like Home.

"To thee I'll return, overburdened with care;  
The heart's dearest solace will smile on me there;  
No more from that cottage again will I roam;  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home,

Home, Home, sweet, sweet Home.  
There's no place like Home. There's no place like Home."

You do not imagine, do you, that this idea of home, for the protection of wife and children, is a matter of mere sentiment? That, beyond provision for a shelter from the storm and for comfort against the heat of summer and the cold of winter, the home is of no practical purpose in the affairs of men?

"And what's the use of a new baby?" is a question you have often heard put in a manner not unfriendly to the new baby at all, but as though the questioner supposed that none but a nonsensical answer could be made to it. Far otherwise; for, in its last analysis, the new baby is at the very

basis of all the higher forms of civil society and self-government; and in the design of the home to take care of him, that the end of his existence shall be attained, he is directly in the way of a final adjustment of the matters of this earth, at least, that the purposes of the great Creator and Ruler may be carried out.

It would be treason to hold that governments of the people, by the people and for the people, are not absolutely necessary. But, with the spirit of independence abroad and touching every individual person in the land, would any association of men for the establishment of such a government, to endure permanently, ever be formed by the voluntary agreement of all, if there were not in each person an element of such all-pervading power over him that, although overlooked as to its actual existence and force, is yet present with all and in such power as to impel them to come together in such a governmental relation that the well-being of the mass may be best attained? It is the new baby and the home to take care of him, that brings nations into existence.

It is the thought of that great thinker, Professor John Fiske, now deceased, as discussed at length in his *Destiny of Man*, that the fact of the long period of infancy of the child of the human race, is the controlling fact evidencing the intention that man, of all living creatures, shall dominate the earth. The colt, the calf, the pig, and almost every other domestic animal, rises in a day from the place where it is dropped; in a week or so it is racing fleet-footed over the fields, and it soon becomes able to look after its own wants, and to do without parental aid and sustenance. Man is allotted in the neighborhood of three-score and ten years, a much longer life period than is allotted to any other animal, yet from the time of his birth, a period of almost one-third of the whole period of human life must elapse before the young fellow becomes able fully to take care of himself and to look out for that which will best fit him for his work in life, for the remaining two-thirds thereof. And what a pitiable little thing the new baby is for even months of his first existence. He may be pretty to his mother and to some of her true friends, but to his father he is of not much account until his muscles have begun to stiffen, and he starts to show the mettle that is in him; and until eight, nine, ten or fifteen years of age constant teaching is a necessity for him, and watchfulness and anxiety concerning him shall not cease until he is about twenty-one, when he is supposed to be his own man.

The idea is not fully developed here of course, but enough of it is presented to show that a result intended in the very nature of things has been brought about. As man is to have dominion over land and sea and over all that in them is, this long period of youthful adolescence, is so protracted as to establish the family relation, to give to the young human being the strength of muscle and bone, and of spirit and manhood, of courage and morality, to fit it for the work of life; and at the same time, by a reflex action upon the parents, to build them up in patience, unselfishness and virtue, civil and moral, kindness and consideration, and other elements of a like nature to build up the family in the home, and constitute it the unit of the state and nation.

Why did our forefathers leave the old homes they had established beyond the waters of the unconquered sea, but to better the conditions of their families, of their wives, their sons and daughters, and have better homes for all? Why, except to make their own laws and carry on their own methods of government, for the liberties of their own families and homes, was it that our ancestors, settled substantially along the Atlantic Coast,



with a whole continent stretching towards the Pacific, felt that they must be freed from British domination, even though they had to fight for it, and were made ready for the word that the British forces had started from Boston, for Lexington and Concord, as told in

#### PAUL REVERE'S RIDE.

"Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;—  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year,—  
He said to his friend, 'If the British march  
By land or sea from the town to-night,  
Hang a lantern aloft in the Belfry arch  
Of the North Church tower, as a signal light;—one,  
If by land, and two, if by sea;  
And I on the opposite shore will be,  
Ready to ride and spread the alarm  
Through every Middlesex village and farm,  
For the country folk to be up and to arm.

\* \* \* \* \*

"So through the night rode Paul Revere,  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm;—  
A cry of defiance and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo forevermore.  
For, borne on the night wind of the Past,  
Through all our history to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere."

#### In the Monongahela Valley.

At the time of the conflict of the American yeomanry with the regular soldiers of the British army at Lexington and Concord, on April 19, 1775, more than one year before the thirteen American colonies, in a representative Congress assembled, adopted the final and authoritative Declaration of Independence from the mother country, the settlers in the Valley of the Monongahela, were on the outposts of civilization, and in an exceedingly unique and dangerous condition. It must be remembered that at this date the cabins of the pioneer had extended from the foot of the Alleghany mountains across the Monongahela River and into all sections of the country East of the Ohio, and that many were the crude homes of adventurers here and there set down in little cleared patches by some running stream or some sparkling spring of water. Indeed, there is now no doubt at all that in the Spring of 1775 what is now Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette, and Greene counties, and those parts of Allegheny and Beaver South of the Monongahela and Ohio rivers, were occupied by hardy settlers, from the mouths to the head-waters of all its principal streams, the earliest settlements beginning in old Washington County about 1769; with the country round about yet a wilderness of tall Oaks, Sugars and Walnuts, and other luxuriant trees, except where the little clearings here and there were marked by the blue smoke curling up above the tree-tops from the cabin chimney of the lonesome pioneer, who for the subsistence of his family



KENNEDY HOMESTEAD ON MINGO CREEK, BUILT BEFORE THE WHISKEY INSURRECTION.

ground his corn in a hand-mill for his bread, and for his meat he stalked the wild deer, the bear and the turkey; whilst the stillness of the evening and of the night at all times was often made full of terror by the scream of the panther, the howl of the wolf and the warwhoop of the merciless Indian.

This condition of things existed throughout our valleys and hills not so very long ago. Two full lives of three score and ten years will carry you back to these days. Was not your grandmother, whom you well knew in her old days and in your young days, one of three little girls who were paddled by their mother alone,—your great grandmother, down the Susquehanna, through hostile tribes of Indians, to meet at the place called Harrisburg, now, their father and your great grandfather, who had been forced to proceed to that point by way of New York and Philadelphia? And do you not remember old George Hupp, the son of Everhart Hupp, who with George Bumgarner and Abraham Teegarden had settled at the mouth of Ten Mile Creek about 1769, upon the land a part of which is now occupied by the Town of Millsboro; that you were a very little boy when this George Hupp, then seventy-five or eighty perhaps, at least an old man, but strong and sprightly, would come to your father's house in the dead of winter, in a coon-skin cap, fringed hunting shirt, deer-skin trousers and moccasins, his old-time tomahawk and long knife stuck in his belt, his powder-horn and bullet-pouch hanging at his side, and his long-barreled flint-lock rifle thrown over his shoulder? Your father liked the generous old man with the loud voice, and the best in the house was put before him,

and especially the big round-bellied black bottle from the corner cupboard; but you trembled as you listened with strained attention to the tales told by the old man of the stalking of Indians as well as of the panther and bear when on his ranging with his own father; and you will never forget that old rifle, and the tomahawk and scalping knife which had done active service in the days of blood.

### The Boundary Controversy.

Well, to what governmental jurisdiction did our early settlers belong, in the days of Lexington and Concord? There were two colonial governments in force in the Monongahela Valley and the settlers had their choice.

Pennsylvania was a proprietary province, whilst Virginia was a crown colony. The grant by King Charles in 1681, was of a tract named "Pennsylvania," embraced within five degrees of longitude West from a fixed point near the Delaware River, and three degrees of latitude North and South, and the grant was to William Penn, his heirs and assigns, in fee. Virginia, on the other hand, being a crown colony, its lands were ever in the crown, to be granted at the will of the crown to favorites or purchasers. By its amended charter passed in 1609, its Northwestern boundary line was absurdly claimed to run due Northwest from a point two hundred miles on the Atlantic Coast North from old Point Comfort, which line would have cut diagonally through Pennsylvania and would have taken from that province the larger part of its territory; but this extent of claim on the part of Virginia never attracted attention, for even though the Virginia charter antedated the grant to William Penn by about seventy-five years, yet even the crown was estopped by the later grant in fee.

No attempt was made by Pennsylvania to measure the extent toward the West of her five degrees of longitude from the Delaware river, and where was the line which made her Western boundary? Not until about 1735 was the Supreme Executive Council at Philadelphia informed by rude sketches and information furnished by adventurous traders and trappers who had penetrated beyond the Alleghanies, that entirely beyond the barrier of these mountains there were great rivers and beautiful valleys, and rounded hills clothed with richness to their very tops, all awaiting the settler's home. Soon afterward arose the trouble between the Pennsylvania authorities and Lord Baltimore as to the location of the southern boundary of Pennsylvania; and somewhere along about 1750 a party of surveyors were sent out from Philadelphia with compass and chain, to find out whether the Indian village of Logstown, about eighteen miles below the union of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers to form the Ohio, was within the five degrees of longitude Westward granted to William Penn. The report of this body of engineers establishing the fact affirmatively, relating the hardships endured, the surprises and wonders accruing to them as they proceeded through the apparently impassable mountain barriers, both by day and by night, form an interesting account in the pages of one of the volumes of our Colonial Records.

About this time Virginia, claiming that these lands with the fine rivers and rich valleys West of the mountains, belonged to that colony, and as a crown colony being more vigilant of British interests than her more independent neighbor Pennsylvania, her royal governor Dinwiddie, appointed by the crown, sent a young man named George Washington, a surveyor by occupation, twenty-one years of age only, but of matured intellect and character, to demand from the French what was the meaning of their pro-



ceedings in crossing from Lake Erie to the head waters of the Allegheny, and their building of protective forts and blockhouses thereon as they proceeded. And here was the beginning of what was known as the French and Indian War, the building of Fort Duquesne on the Point at Pittsburgh; the building and surrender by George Washington of Fort Necessity, just beyond what is now Uniontown, Pa., on July 4, 1754; of Braddock's Defeat, just above Pittsburgh, on July 9, 1755; followed by Forbes's Expedition in 1758, a war lasting for ten years and terminating with the Treaty of Peace of 1763, by which France lost substantially all her possessions on the North American continent that lay East of the Mississippi; this war, involving the English and French nations on land and sea, with such a momentous result, beginning within a circle of perhaps thirty miles from the place of this home coming.

It was the interference by Virginia in the affairs of the Monongahela Valley, just before and at and during the French and Indian War that stirred up the Pennsylvania authorities to dispute vigorously the pretensions of Virginia in the territory West of the mountains. The Virginia authorities persistently urged that the limit of Penn's five degrees of longitude would, if properly measured, put the Forks of the Ohio and all of what is now Washington, Fayette and Greene counties into Virginia. But Pennsylvania said, No; and when, after long delays in determining the case of Penn and Lord Baltimore, in the English Court of Chancery, in 1767 Mason and Dixon, two eminent English civil engineers, were sent over to locate and mark on the ground the line between Pennsylvania and Maryland, just where it is to-day. But when these surveyors were within about thirty-eight miles of the point which would have been the end of a line due west from the fixed point at the Delaware, five degrees of longitude in length, they were stopped by the Indians who would not permit them to cross the "Old Warriors' Trail" used by the Indians passing from the North to the South. And thus the Southwest corner of Pennsylvania had not yet been found and established, from which to run its Western boundary to the North, and the controversy between Pennsylvania and Virginia continued, many compromise lines being suggested, but all refused. The fact is that Lord Dunmore, the then representative of the British Crown in Virginia, was an intense loyalist; he knew what was likely to come on, and preferred that the relations of the American colonies should not be solidified and amicable.

In Dunmore's War with the Western Indians, in 1774, Pennsylvania had taken no part. But Dunmore in person as the Royal governor of Virginia was along with the body of soldiers who came and returned by way of Pittsburgh. On his return he stopped at Redstone Old Fort (now Brownsville) where he had Thomas Scott, a Justice of the Westmoreland County Court, established by Pennsylvania the year before, who had been arrested by Virginia officials for exercising the functions of a magistrate under the laws of Pennsylvania, to be brought before him for examination, and for possible commitment for trial at Staunton, Va. And this requires an explanation of new conditions then existing.

Immigration into the Monongahela Valley had begun about 1765 or 1767, the early immigrants stopping in what is now Fayette and Greene counties, and in about 1769 it broke over the Monongahela River, and soon spread across to the Ohio. By far the larger part of this immigration came from the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, some of it from Maryland and some from the Eastern part of Pennsylvania towards the Maryland line. Indeed,

many of the immigrants from the Shenandoah Valley had in former days gone thither from Pennsylvania, some of them German and others Scotch-Irish. So that by the time that substantially all sections of what is now Southwestern Pennsylvania had been occupied more or less with the homes of the new settlers, Scotch-Irish, Germans and Quakers as well, and the boundary line question still unsettled, there came a clash of colonial jurisdictions.

In 1771 Bedford County was formed by the Pennsylvania authorities, with its county seat at Raystown (now Bedford), the county extending from a line drawn by Cumberland County on the East to the limits of the Province on the West, which were not yet ascertained. Persons living on both sides of the Monongahela attended the Pennsylvania Courts of Bedford County held at Raystown. Only two years later, however, in 1773, Westmoreland County was created by the Pennsylvania authorities, its Eastern boundary being the ridges of the Laurel Hills range of the mountains, and its Western boundary being the Western boundary of the State, still in dispute between Pennsylvania and Virginia as to just where that boundary line was. Old Westmoreland was therefore the mother county of Washington, Fayette, Allegheny, Greene and Beaver, and of other counties to the North of the latter county, and its courts were established at Hannastown, a village about three miles to the Northeast of the present borough of Greensburg; and of course all its officials,—its justices, sheriff, coroner, assessors, constables, etc., were commissioned and appointed in the name of the British Crown, for Pennsylvania was still a province of Great Britain.

In the Fall of 1774, when Dunmore's War was over and Lord Dunmore had returned to Williamsburg, then the capitol city of Virginia, the Virginia authorities, to meet the active extension by Pennsylvania over the lands West of the Alleghanies, established as an appendage to Augusta County, Va., with its county seat at Staunton, far down the Shenandoah Valley, a new political division and called it the District of West Augusta, embracing all of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and extending down along the boundary of old Augusta County into the undisputed part of old Virginia. The county seat of the District of West Augusta was established at old Fort Pitt, changed in name to Fort Dunmore; and officials were commissioned in the name of the British Crown by Lord Dunmore,—Justices, sheriffs, coroners, assessors, constables, etc., as in Pennsylvania, and on February 21, 1775, in a part of old Fort Dunmore, (now Pittsburgh,) partly then in ruins, began to be held regular sessions of Virginia Courts, in which an extensive business was transacted. Then broke out a mild-mannered war between the Pennsylvania adherents on the one side and the Virginia adherents on the other, reaching at times almost to bloodshed. One side denominated the members of the other as "ruffians, scoundrels," or most usually "banditti." The Pennsylvania Justice of the Peace, serving also as a Judge of the County Court, commissioned by the governor of the province in the name of his majesty King George III, would issue his warrant for the arrest and commitment of the Virginia justices and others commissioned by Governor Dunmore in the name of the same British King. So, when an assessor appointed by Lord Dunmore to value real and personal property for the assessment of taxes for the District of West Augusta, the poor assessor was arrested and imprisoned in the County Jail at Hannastown, to be held for hearing on the charge of exercising in the county of Westmoreland the powers of an official of a foreign government, and vice versa. A number of Pennsylvania officials were arrested in Westmoreland

County and carried to Staunton for the trial of offences committed in Pennsylvania, and the turmoil resulting in the Monongahela Valley, from the fact that for five years, from 1775 to 1780, two antagonistic governments were exercising jurisdiction over the same people at the same time in the same territory, and that, too, when the conditions of a new settlement in a new country created a great need for a single and well-established form of government, may be fully imagined.

### The War of the Revolution on the Monongahela.

When the doings at Lexington and Concord reached the Monongahela Valley, both the Pennsylvania and Virginia adherents, the latter in a large majority of the whole, though separated into two different peoples, then united in the one common purpose of fighting for their individual rights and privileges, as colonists who had taken up all they had, their lives and fortunes, to better their homes and conditions in a new world. For, when the people of this valley heard from Lexington and Concord in the early Spring of 1775, though bitterly divided amongst themselves in their allegiance to their separate colonial jurisdictions and by the barriers of the mountains cut off from the colonies on the East, and by the Ohio River beyond which they must not pass into the recognized Indian country, they must not selfishly lag behind in a purpose so common and so great. And observe how our own people, in this section, thus segregated from the American world in that early day, so reluctantly engaged in a contest that might eventually separate them from the mother country which had given them birth!

### District of West Augusta Meeting.

Not quite four weeks after Lexington and Concord, to-wit, on May 16, 1775, the news brought by messenger having had time to be spread abroad, the Virginia adherents held a meeting at Fort Dunmore, attended also by a few Pennsylvanians, at which a series of resolutions was passed providing for the organization of all able-bodied men into a militia, and for the procurement of ammunition of which they were sadly in need. The meeting was described at the beginning of the paper reported as "a Meeting of the Inhabitants of that part of Augusta County that lies on the West side of the Laurel Hill, at Pittsburgh," and among the committee named to carry out the provisions of the resolutions adopted, were John Cannon, the founder of Canonsburg; John McCullough, either the father or the brother of Samuel McCullough, who made the famous horse-back leap over the precipice of Wheeling Hill; William Goe, a Justice of the Fort Dunmore Court living over this river below Old Redstone (Brownsville); George Vallandigham, living near what is now Noblestown, the ancestor of C. L. Vallandigham, of note during our Civil War; Dorsey Pentecost, subsequently a leader in Washington County public affairs; Edward Cook, the founder of Cookstown, now Bellevern, Fayette County; William Crawford, of near the present Connellsville, and seven years afterward burned at the stake by the Indians at Sandusky, Ohio; Jacob Vanmetre, living in the present Ohio County, West Virginia; George Wilson, from George's Creek in Fayette County; and John Swearingen, on the East side of the Monongahela above Brownsville, the father of Van Swearingen, the first Sheriff of Washington County. These are not the names of all the "Virginians" who formed the Committee of the District of West Augusta, but enough are given to indicate how widely distributed from the foot of the



mountains to the Ohio River were the Virginia adherents at the date referred to.

Only two of the long resolutions may be copied verbatim here:

**"Resolved unanimously,** That this committee have the highest sense of the spirited behavior of their brethren in New England, and do most cordially approve of their opposing the invaders of American rights and privileges to the utmost extreme, and that each member of this committee, respectively, will animate and encourage their neighborhood to follow the brave example.

"The imminent danger that threatens America in general, from ministerial and parliamentary denunciations of our ruin, and is now carrying into execution by open acts of unprovoked hostilities in our sister colony of Massachusetts, as well as the danger to be apprehended to this colony in particular from a domestic enemy, said to be prompted by the wicked minions of power to execute our ruin, added to the menaces of an Indian war, likewise said to be in contemplation, thereby think to engage our attention, and direct it from that still more interesting object of liberty and freedom, that deeply, and with as much justice hath called forth attention of all America; for the prevention of all, or any of the impending evils, it is

**"Resolved,** That the recommendation of the Richmond convention of the 20th of last March, relative to the embodying, arming, and disciplining the militia, be immediately carried into execution with the greatest diligence, in this country, by the officers appointed for that end; and that the recommendation of the said Convention to the several committees of this colony, to collect from their constituents, in such manner as shall be most agreeable to them, so much money as shall be sufficient to purchase half a pound of gun-powder, and one pound of lead, flints, and cartridge paper, for every tithable person in the county, be likewise carried into execution.

"This committee, therefore, out of the deepest sense of the expediency of this measure, most earnestly entreat that every member of this committee do collect from each tithable person in their several districts the sums of two shillings and six pence, which we deem no more than sufficient for the above purpose, and give proper receipts to all such as pay the same into their hands; and the sum so collected to be paid into the hands of Mr. John Campbell, who is to give proper security to this committee, or their successors, for the due and faithful application of the money so deposited with him for the above purpose, by or with the advice of this committee, or their successors; and this committee, as your representatives, and who are most ardently laboring for your preservation, call on you, our constituents, our friends, brethren and fellow sufferers in the name of God, of everything you hold sacred or valuable, for the sake of your wives, children and unborn generations, that you will, every one of you, in your several stations, to the utmost of your power assist in levying such sum, by not only paying yourselves, but by assisting those who are not at present in a condition to do so. We heartily lament the case of all such as have not this sum at command in this day of necessity; to all such we recommend to tender security to such as Providence has enabled to lend them so much; and this committee do pledge their faith and fortunes to you, their constituents, that we shall, without fee or reward, use our best endeavors to procure, with the money so collected, the ammunition our present exigencies have made so exceedingly necessary."

### Westmoreland County Meeting.

On the very same day, May 16, 1775, was held a meeting of the Pennsylvania adherents at Hannastown, about thirty miles only from Pittsburgh, of which the following record was made. Unfortunately the names of the men who took part at that meeting have not been preserved, but a full copy of the written proceedings is here appended for a lesson in true patriotism for the Pennsylvanians of to-day and hereafter. Note the evident effort toward a reform of abuses on the part of the British Parliament, with loyalty to the British Crown, and yet with a conditional Declaration of Independence anticipating that adopted by the Congress of the United Colonies held at Philadelphia more than a year thereafter! And remember that Westmoreland County in that day embraced the whole of Southwestern Pennsylvania as it is to-day.



"At a general meeting of the inhabitants of the County of Westmoreland, held at Hannastown the 16th day of May, 1775, for taking into consideration the very alarming situation of the country, occasioned by the dispute with Great Britain:

**"Resolved unanimously,** That the Parliament of Great Britain, by several late acts, have declared the inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay to be in Rebellion, and the ministry, by endeavoring to enforce those acts, have attempted to reduce the said inhabitants to a more wretched state of slavery than ever before existed in any state or country. Not content with violating their constitutional and chartered privileges, they would strip them of the rights of humanity, exposing their lives to the wanton and unpunishable sport of a licentious soldiery, and depriving them of the very means of subsistence.

**"Resolved unanimously,** That there is no reason to doubt but the same system of tyranny and oppression will (should it meet with success in Massachusetts Bay) be extended to other parts of America. It is therefore become the Indispensible duty of every American, of every man who has any public virtue or love for his country, or any bowels for posterity, by every means which God has put in his power, to resist and oppose the execution of it; that for us we will be ready to oppose it with our lives and fortunes, and the better to enable us to accomplish it, we will immediately form ourselves into a military body, to consist of companies to be made up out of the several townships under the following association, which is declared to be the Association of Westmoreland County:

"Possessed with the most unshaken loyalty and fidelity to His Majesty, King George the Third, whom we acknowledge to be our lawful and rightful King, and who we wish may be the beloved sovereign of a free and happy people throughout the whole British Empire; we declare to the world, that we do not mean by this Association to deviate from that loyalty which we hold it our bounden duty to observe; but, animated with the love of liberty, it is no less our duty to maintain and defend our just rights (which, with sorrow, we have seen of late violated in many instances by a wicked Ministry and a corrupted Parliament) and transmit them entire to our posterity, for which we do agree and associate together,

"1st. To arm and form ourselves into a regiment or regiments, and choose officers to command us in such proportions as shall be thought necessary.

"2nd. We will, with alacrity, endeavor to make ourselves masters of the manual exercise, and such evolutions as may be necessary to enable us to act in a body with concert; and to that end we will meet at such times and places as shall be appointed either for the companies or the regiments, by the officers commanding each when chosen.

"3d. That should our country be involved by a foreign enemy, or should troops be sent from Great Britain to enforce the late arbitrary acts of its Parliament, we will cheerfully submit to military discipline, and to the utmost of our power resist and oppose them, or either of them, and will coincide with any plan that may be formed for the defence of America in general, or Pennsylvania in particular.

"4th. That we do not wish or desire any innovation, but only that things may be restored to, and go on in the same way as before the era of the Stamp Act, when Boston grew great, and America was happy. As a proof of this disposition, we will quietly submit to the laws by which we have been accustomed to be governed before that period, and will, in our several or associate capacities, be ready when called on to assist the civil magistrate to carry the same in execution.

"5th. That when the British Parliament shall have repealed their late obnoxious statutes, and shall recede from their claim to tax us, and make laws for us in every instance; or some general plan of union and reconciliation has been formed and accepted by America, this our Association shall be dissolved; but till then it shall remain in full force; and to the observation of it, we bind ourselves by everything dear and sacred amongst men.

"No licensed murder. No famine introduced by law.

**"Resolved,** That on Wednesday, the twenty-fourth instant, the townships meet to accede to the said Association, and choose their officers."

Mark the dignity of character in these resolutions. You wonder who wrote them. Was it Thomas Scott, then residing on Dunlap's Creek near Redstone Old Fort, now Brownsville? He was a strong Pennsylvania adherent, a Justice of the Westmoreland County Court, an able and educated man, and when brought before Lord Dunmore the preceding year he had been discharged from his arrest; and when Washington County was organized on March 28, 1781, he was made the first Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts for that county, and was subsequently our representative in the First Congress of the United States under the U. S. Constitution of 1789. He it was who had the honor of presenting to the Congress of the new

nation the resolution which when adopted established the capitol of the United States of America on the banks of the Potomac where it now is and will remain. In blood he was a genuine Scotsman, as tokened by his name. He lived and died a citizen of Washington, in Washington County; his remains still lie in the old Walnut Street burial ground at Washington, and since his death he has been represented by many worthy descendants, and the record of his work in the early history of our county will keep him in memory.

The Revolutionary War came on apace after the Declaration of Independence promulgated by the United Thirteen Colonies on July 4, 1776. The boundary controversy, still unsettled between Pennsylvania and Virginia, there were still in the Monongahela Valley two distinct peoples who could come together upon one subject, at least, and that was the cause of America against at this time both the Crown and Parliament of England, in a contest for colonial independence.

Until of late years you thought that as the battles that were fought under the Banner of the Republic, then with but thirteen, now with forty-six stars upon it, were all fought within a short distance of the Atlantic Coast, but very few if any at all of the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania took part in those battles. A great mistake! For it is now known to a certainty that out of the militia of Westmoreland County (then embracing Washington, Fayette, Allegheny, Greene and Beaver counties, remember,) there went forth across the mountains to fight under Washington in the East, two regimental organizations. But Virginia had militia organizations here in Monongahela Valley as well as had Pennsylvania; and from the militia of the District of West Augusta went forth across the same mountain barrier three regimental organizations, known as the Third, Fifth and Twelfth Virginia Regiments, who fought with their Pennsylvania brethren in the same battles for the Union. It is estimated that a third at least of all the able-bodied men from Southwestern Pennsylvania, with their arms and equipment, including powder and lead, went out to the East to hear the cannon's roar in the battles for the new flag. And, ah! How about the homes, the wives and children, left behind them, to struggle alone in the cabins of the wilderness surrounded day and night by not only the panther and the wolf, but by the merciless Indians instigated by their own natural ferocity and by the ten shillings per scalp paid to them by the agents of the British governors of the Canadas, along the great lakes?

The almost helpless condition of the people of that day in our section may be sufficiently illustrated by an original paper which lies before you as you write. But to make it intelligible it should be stated that by the Declaration of Independence and the other important acts of the colonial Congress following it, the proprietary province of Pennsylvania and the crown colony of Virginia had become two sovereign states of the American Union under the Articles of Confederation, but still the boundary controversy remained undetermined; and in October, 1776, the legislature of Virginia, then become a sovereign state, passed an act dividing the District of West Augusta into three new and complete Virginia Counties, to-wit, Yohogania, Monongalia and Ohio. These counties all came together at a common corner at or near what is now our town of Washington. Standing at the reservoir of the Citizens Water Company near the Washington Cemetery, and looking to the Northeast your eye would overlook Yohogania County, Virginia, with its county seat near the West Bank of the Monongahela, and near the present Allegheny County line. Turning to the right and looking to the Southeast you would oversee Monongalia County, Vir-

ginia, with its county seat in the Southern part of Fayette County, not far from the present town of New Geneva, opposite Greensboro, Greene County. Turning again to the right and looking to the Southwest and West you would have in front of you Ohio County, Virginia, with its county seat at West Liberty about eight miles Northwest of West Alexander. Of these three old Virginia counties, only one, Ohio County, remains, having its county seat at Wheeling, now West Virginia.

Each of these Virginia counties established in Pennsylvania territory had a complete militia organization, although many of its arms-bearing men had gone into the patriot army operating in the East. These organizations were under the control of a County Lieutenant over the whole, in each county, with sub-ordinate colonels, majors and captains.

### A Council of War at Catfish Camp.

Passing near the Southern edge of Washington Borough is a small stream of water bearing upon old maps the beautiful Indian name of "The Wissameking." Along its banks just below the Waynesburg & Washington Railroad Station, a Delaware Indian called Tingooqua had his hunting lodge. Tingooqua meant "The Cat-Fish" in English, and the locality frequented by him on his hunting tours became the early name of the town laid out on October 13, 1781, first called Bassettown, then Dandridge, and finally Washington Town.

The great Patrick Henry had become the first governor of Virginia after she had become an independent state in the American Federation, and in the early winter of 1776, reports had been circulated of an invasion of Indians instigated by British agents along the lakes, to take place in the early Spring thereafter; and on December 9th, and again on December 13, 1776, respectively, Governor Henry wrote two letters the last of which, addressed to Col. Dorsey Pentecost, the County Lieutenant of Yohogania County, then residing probably on the Eastern branch of Chartiers Creek, was as follows:

**"Williamsburgh, December 13, 1776.**

**"Sir:**

"The more I consider of the State of things in your Quarter the more I am convinced of the Necessity there is to prepare for Hostilities in the Spring; and although Continental Troops will be stationed on the Ohio, yet the Militia must be the last great Resource from which your safety is derived.

"In order to form something resembling Magazines, for the Present, I have ordered about six Tons of Lead for West Augusta; and that this article may be deposited in the Proper places, I wish you to Summon a Council of Field Officers and Captains, and Take their Opinions which places are the fittest for Magazines in the three Counties of Yohogania, Monaungahela, and Ohio, and Transmit the result to me.

"I wish you would please to find out where Cap't. Gibson's Cargo of Powder is, and let me know. In the Council of Officers I would desire it Should be considered whether the Militia with you want any Article Government can furnish, and what it is, for be assured it will give me great pleasure to contribute to your Safety. I am of Opinion that unless your People wisely Improve this Winter you may probably be Destroyed. Prepare then to make resistance while you have Time. I hope by your Vigorous Exertions your frontier may be Defended, and if necessity shall require some assistance be afforded to Combat our European Enemies.

"I have great Expectations from the Number and known Courage of your militia, and if you are not wanting in foresight and preparation they will do great things. Let a plan of Defence be fix'd and settled beforehand; I mean, principally, the places of Rendezvous and the officers who are to Act as well as to Provide speedy and certain Intelligence. Let the Arms be kept in Constant repair and readiness, and the Accoutrements properly fixed. It will be proper to send out Scouts and Trusty Spies Toward the Enemy's Country to bring you accounts of their Movements. I wish great care may be used in the Nomination of Military Officers with you, as so much depends on a proper appointment.



"You will please to give strict attention to the great Objects here recommended to you, and I shall be Happy to hear of the safety of your People, whose Protection Government will Omit Nothing to accomplish. I am

Sir

Your Mo. Ob. Serv't.

Col. Dorsey Pentecost,

P. Henry, Junr."

The meeting of the council thus recommended took place at "Cat-fish Camp", the point where all three of the Virginia counties came together, on January 28, 1777. At the first day's session on said date there were present the following militia officers: For Yohogania County, Dorsey Pentecost, County Lieutenant, John Cannon, Colonel, Isaac Cox, Lieut. Col., and Henry Taylor, Major; for Ohio County, David Shepherd, County Lieutenant, Silas Hedge, Colonel, David McClure, Lieut. Col., and Samuel McCullough, Major; and for Monongalia County, Zachwell Morgan, County Lieutenant, and John Evans, Major; and there were present also thirty-two captains, among whom were: John Munn, John Wall, Gabriel Cox, William Scott, Joseph Tumbleson, Benjamin Frye, Matthew Ritchey, Samuel Meason, John Pearce Duvall, James Brinton, Vinson Colvin, James Buckhan-non, Reason Virgin, William Harrod and David Williamson.

Col. Dorsey Pentecost was unanimously made president of the council, and Col. David McClure was chosen clerk, or, as both spelled and pronounced in that day, "Clark."

The president called the council to order, presented the letters from the governor, and upon motion a committee consisting of divers colonels and captains, was appointed a "Select Council, to consider of the before mentioned letters, and make their Report to this Council, to be by them Re-considered; and the Council adjourned until to-morrow, 10 o'clock."

The record of the next day's proceedings was as follows, verbatim:

**"January 29th, 1777.**

"The Council met according to adjournment, present as yesterday, and Col. Isaac Cox was unanimously Chosen Vice President.

"Colo. Pentecost from the Select Council delivered the following resolutions, which he read in his place and then handed them to the Clark's Table, where they were read a second time.

**"Resolved,** That it is the opinion of your committee, That the following is the Proper Places for Magazines in the District of West Augusta, (vizt) the House of Gabriel Cox in the County of Yohogania, the House of John Swearingen in the County of Monaungahela, & the House of David Shepherd in the County of Ohio; and that the six Tunns of led to be sent to this District, mentioned in his Excellency's letter of the 13th of December last addressed to Colo. Pentecost, be divided in the following manner and deposited at the before Mentioned places, (vizt) for Yohogania County 2 1-2 Tunns; for the Monaungahela County 2 1/4 Tunns; and for the Ohio County 1 1/4 Quarter Tunns, being (as this committee conceives) as equal a Division of the said led and other ammunition that may be sent to this District, according to the number of People in each County as may be.

**"Resolved** that his Excellency the Governor be requested to send with all convenient Expedition, Powder Equivalent to the before mentioned Led; which agreeable to the Rifle use is one pound of Powder to two pounds of Led, with Ten Thousand flints.

**"Resolved,** that in consequence of his Excellency's Request, and that it is highly necessary, and it is accordingly Strongly recommended to Colo. Pentecost, to send a Capt. & 50 men down the Ohio to find out if Possible where Capt. Gibson's Cargo of Powder is, and conduct it up to the Settlements; and that it is the Opinion of this Council that the Officers and Men to be Employed in this Business Deserves double Wages.

**"Resolved,** as the opinion of your Committee, That upon the best Information they Can at this Time Collect, that one third of the Militia of this District is without Guns occasioned by so many of the Regular Troops being furnished with Guns out of the Militia of this District, and that one half of the remaining Part wants Repairs.

**"Resolved,** therefore, that Government be requested to send up to this district One Thousand Guns, Rifles if Possible to be had, as Muskets will by no means be of the same service to defend us against an Indian Enemy.

**"Resolved,** for the Purpose of Repairing Guns, making Tommehooks, Sculping Knives, &c., that Proper Persons ought to be Employed in each County, at the Public Expense; and that Thomas & William Parkenson be appointed in the County of Yohogania, and that they Immediately open Shop at their House on the Monaungahela River, for the above purpose; and that they make with all Possible Expedition all the Rifle Guns they can, and a sufficient number of Tommehooks & Sculping knives, &c., and that the County Lieut. Receive them, or direct the Distribution thereof.

**"Resolved,** that Robert Currie be Employed for the above Purpose in the Monaungahela County, and that he open Shop at his own Dwelling House in the forks of Cheat.

**"Resolved,** that Thomas Jones (or some other proper Person to be appointed by the County Lieut.) be appointed for the above in the Ohio County, to open Shop at the House of Colo. Shepherd.

"Your committee having Maturely & Deliberately considered the Truly Critical and Distressed situation of this Country, and with the deepest Anxiety have viewed the very Recent cruel depredations committed on our people by our relentless Neighbors the Indians, and with the utmost regard have considered his Excellency's Recommendations to prepare for Hostilities in the Spring, and to prepare to make defence while we have Time, & to form a plan of Defence for this Country, are of the opinion that if no field Officer appear to Take the Command of the Troops now Raised and Raising in this District, at the next meeting of the different Committees, that the sd Committees forthwith Order the sd Troops to such places on the frontiers as they shall think proper, for the Present Protection of the Inhabitants, and at least one hundred of sd Troops be ordered to Grave Creek Fort; and in case the said Troops are not stationed as aforesaid, then the County Lieut. of Yohogania County is requested to order a Lieut. and 25 men to Baker's Fort, and a Lieut. and 25 to Isaac Coxes on the Ohio; and that the County Lieut. of Ohio County order a Lieut. and 25 men to the Beech Bottom, and a Lieut. & 25 men to the Grave Creek Fort; and that the County Lieut. of Monaungahela County order a Capt. & 50 men to be stationed at the house of Capt. Owin Davis's at the head of Dunkard Creek, and a Lieut. & 25 Men to Grave Creek to augment that Garrison to 50 men; Those men to be ordered at such Time as the County Lieuts. shall think Proper and the Exigency of the Times Require; and that Militia be Drafted, Officerd (and held in constant Rediness) to Rendezvouse at the following Places in the following manner:—

"(Here is mentioned the active Officers, the place of Rendezvouse in each County, which are the places of the Magazines, the drafts and who heads them from each Company, which is 15 Privates, one sergt, and a Commissioned Officer, making in the whole about 1,100 men).

**"Resolved,** unanimously, that upon the first Hostilities being committed on our settlements, that the County Lieut. in whose County the same may happen, Immediately call a Council of the three countys, as Proper measures may be persued for the Chastisement of the Cruel Perpetrators.

"Agreed to in full Council, A Copy

[Signed]

**"David McClure, Clark."**

### End of the Boundary Controversy.

These transactions of these troublous times were the doings of the Virginia Militia of the Monongahela Valley; and it may be safely assumed that the Pennsylvania militia over the same territory were not behind them in activity and vigilance, but only in numbers.

Only a single incident by way of illustrating the terrors of the life of the pioneer and of the life of his family in those days. The cabin of Major Henry Taylor, one of the militia officers of Yohogania County, present at this Council of War on January 28, 29, 1777, was upon the high lands about one mile only Northeast of our Washington of to-day. Somewhere about the time of this council he was absent from home assisting in the defence of a fort or blockhouse on the Western borders of our present county of Washington, besieged by the Indians. Ammunition running low Major Taylor under cover of the darkness slipped from the fort unobserved, and late in the night made his way to his home for a fresh supply. To his horror he found that his wife and three little children whom he had left in his cabin were there no longer. Supposing they had been taken captive by the Indians then prowling in numbers throughout the country, but

fearing to disclose his presence at home by striking a light for a search, he hurriedly procured the ammunition desired and returned to the fort. On the coming morning it was found that the siege was raised and the enemy departed, when with help from the men from the fort he hurried back to his home and found that his wife, alarmed at the prolonged absence of her husband, had early in the evening taken the children with her to the woods, where a large tree had blown down leaving at its upturned roots a deep hole which had filled with dry leaves, and that in these leaves she had covered up herself and the children for the night. Her agony during the long hours of darkness was heightened by the distant cry of the panther, and as well by the overpowering fear that a cry from one of the children might bring upon her and them the yell of lurking savages.

The hostilities anticipated for the Spring of 1777, did not occur, at least to the expected extent. Perhaps the preparations made to meet them had become noised abroad and had frightened the dreaded enemy. But the boundary controversy between Pennsylvania and Virginia still continued undetermined. Its determination, however, had become more easy as the War of the Revolution proceeded. What seemed to be impossible whilst Pennsylvania was a proprietary province and Virginia a crown colony, both, although unequally, under the power of the British Parliament, became possible when both the contestants were independent states of a federation, then at war with the parent country. So it was that in 1779, commissioners from the respective states met in conference at Baltimore, and after much deliberation an agreement was finally reached, which, subject to ratification by the legislatures of the two states, was to terminate the boundary controversy that had been a matter of heated contention for nearly thirty years.

That agreement was in substance that Mason and Dixon's line should be extended on the same parallel from the point to which the engineers had marked it in 1767, when stayed by the Indians, to a point which measured in full five degrees of longitude from the fixed point on the Delaware, thus establishing the Southwest corner of the State of Pennsylvania; and a line run due North from that corner should constitute the Western boundary of our State. Fortunately that agreement was finally ratified by the legislatures of Pennsylvania and Virginia the following winter, having an important condition attached, to-wit, that where lands falling within the newly determined limits of Pennsylvania had been settled upon under the laws of Virginia, the rights acquired by the settlers thereby should be thereafter respected by the land-office of Pennsylvania in the granting of patents to such settlers, their heirs and assigns. And on September 24, 1780, the last Virginia Court was held within the present limits of Pennsylvania, Virginia's occupation of any portion of Pennsylvania was ended, and thenceforth the early Virginia settlers in the Monongahela Valley became and have since remained entirely loyal Pennsylvanians.

On the formation of Washington County by an act of assembly passed on March 28, 1781, many of the former Virginia adherents were made public officials of the new county. As an instance, only, among many, many others, Major Henry Taylor, a member of the Council of War noted above, said to have emigrated from Cecil County, Maryland, but always a consistent Virginia adherent, afterwards became Colonel and County Lieutenant, and subsequently Brigadier General of the militia, and on the organization of Washington County in 1781 he was commissioned as the presiding Justice of the several county courts, and presided at the first term of court of that county, held on October 2, 1781. In 1783 he was succeeded in that office by Col. Dorsey Pentecost, an ardent Vir-



ginian, and also a leader thereafter in the public affairs of Pennsylvania. And so it is that as to the titles to lands throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania, as they are held to-day, very, very many of them, had their origin in certificates of settlement granted to settlers under the Virginia Laws by Virginia commissioners holding sessions and hearing proofs of settlements at points along the Monongahela River in the winter of 1779 and the following year of 1780.

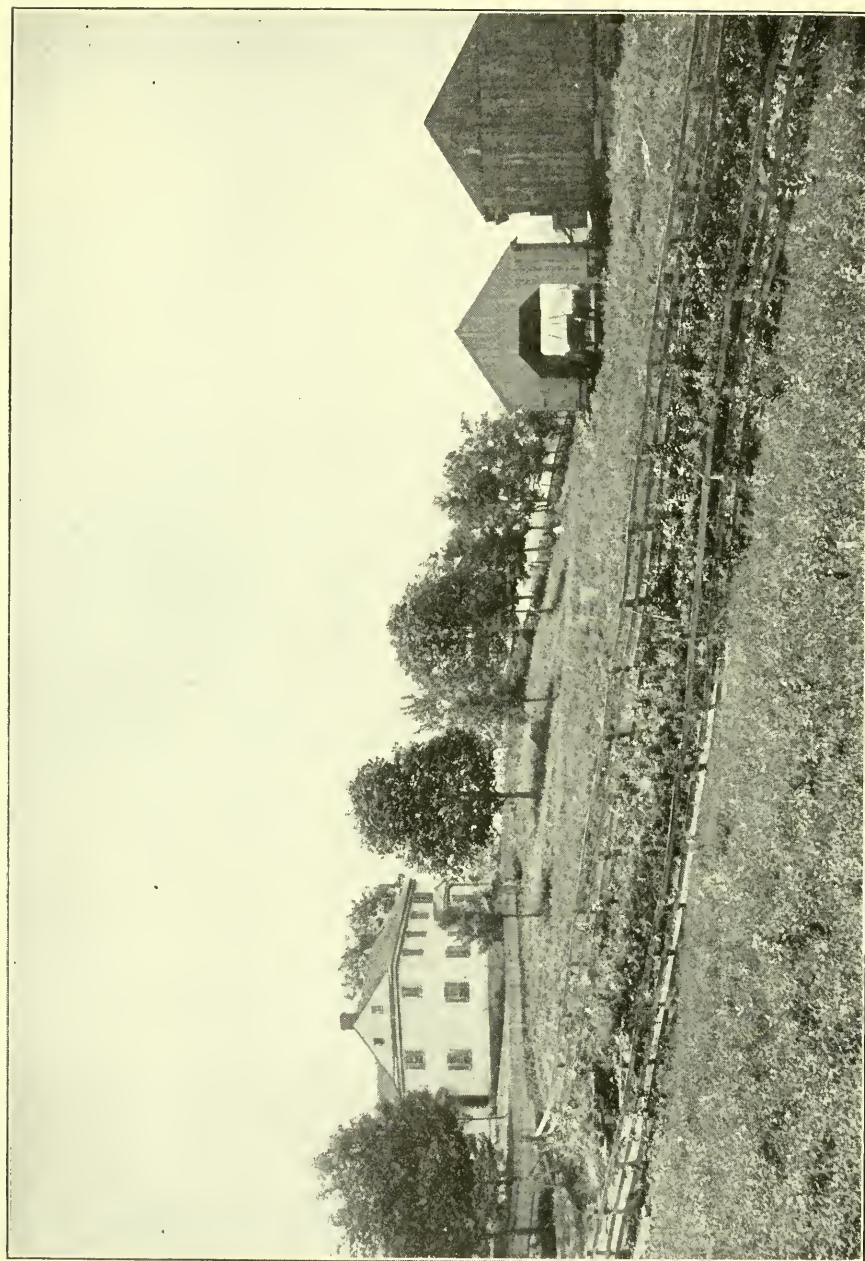
May we not, then stand upon the proposition, not, of course, stated for the first time in this paper, but well established though seldom remembered, that the labors, trials and sufferings of our pioneer immigrants, in passing over mountain barriers known only to the daring adventurer, to seek a new home in the wilderness; in finding that home upon the waters of the Monongahela or Ohio; in starting with the little clearing where the cabin was hurriedly placed in some apparently favored spot, and where the daylight hours were full of lonely toil and the night-time full of restlessness and terror; that these and a hundred other impediments to peace and happiness,—and in addition the natural bickerings and contests between individuals, by reason of the existence over the same locality but over two peoples of not one government for the regulation of individual rights, but of two governments each exercising jurisdiction at the same time over the same territory, each with its different laws for observance, and each with its own judicial system, and its own executive officials,—was not all this endurance of toil and suffering and hardship but the result of an instinct as deep as the depth of all nature herself, to establish for each one a home and a family? How few of these pioneers then knew, and how few of their descendants of this day think of the fact, that the establishment of this home and family was to be, in the order of nature herself, for the foundation upon which the Nation was to arise!

. You, who have reached the ordinary limit of three score years and ten, have been building, year by year, like the Chambered Nautilus, the home of your individual life on earth. Beginning with a small cell for the infant life, chamber after chamber has been added of pearly brightness, until the dwelling of your life has rounded out as the years advanced, its brightness of color never diminishing, even though here and there for the years of the past there are the scars of the wounds of conflict. Go back, now, with the light of memory through each chamber in which you have dwelt, and look again at what you may see.

You see, with the vision of your early days, off at a distance from the house of your birth, an old log cabin near an old spring, where cool waters come from the foot of the rock or from the roots of an ancient Birch or Oak. The walls of this cabin, of but one small room, are of logs hewn within and without and chunked and daubed with clay; the battened door,—there is but one,—becomes barred, when the leather strap which lifts the heavy latch within is pulled inside; the fireplace is cut widely from the end of the room, and the chimney is strongly built on the outside, large stones well mortared for the base, and short sticks of wood held by clay to become hardened by the heat that comes up from the place of warmth within; and from the little windows, few in number and high from the ground, comes the light of the little home from the lard oil lamp or tallow candle, which sets up a beacon light for the belated traveler.

This was the home of your pioneer grandfather and grandmother, who were ever ready, sitting by the fireside of the more substantial dwelling, built in later days by him and his sturdy sons, one of whom was your father. to





**BIRTHPLACE OF BOYD CRUMRINE.**  
Built by his Grandfather in 1805.

tell you of the hardships of the past. The old cabin was still preserved sacredly intact, until the grandfather and grandmother had passed away.

The cabins of the early days were improved later by the building of the broad-mouth fire-place and chimney of brick, or dressed stone laid with mortar and within the room. Still later, two cabins were put up, end to end, with a space under a covered way between. One of the rooms thus connected served as the cooking and eating room; the other as the living room. But the log cabin of either style has about disappeared forever, and the little clearing in which it stood has widened into broad acres of regularly cultivated fields.

But the house in which life came to you and to your sisters and brothers, was built of larger dimensions. It was made of heavy logs, chunked and daubed, two stories in height, finished in oak throughout; and though at this date more than a century old, it trembles not in the fiercest storm, and a pin cannot enter between the oaken boards of the floor. You remember it as it was in your boyhood days, with its red weather-boarding on the outside; its large fire-places in large rooms, as well as in the kitchen where the crane hung over a back-log of such length that it might have been riven into fence stakes, and on the crane hung the dinner pots, and in front of them on the broad hearth, and to the right and left, stood the old-time Dutch-oven, with its aids, and the old-fashioned "Reflector," for hot biscuits in relief of the old-style bake-oven near at hand on the outside. Yes, and you remember the barn below the house on the slope therefrom, as it was in those early days, built of logs alone and thatched with straw; large rooms for storing grain on each side of the grain-tight barn floor wide enough to turn a loaded team in almost, and how that many a time in your dreams you would fall from the floorless loft above, in an agony of fear, until you would awake all right just before you struck that floor.

To the left of the barn, as you saw it from the house, stood the horse-stable, and to the left of the stable, but nearer the house was the "Spring-House," carefully constructed of stone of even thicknesses clear around, with the large stone basin where the milk was kept out of which was made all the butter-milk you wanted, and in front and under the same roof was the famous spring, let into a basin cut from the solid rock. In front of the spring lay a slab of smooth stone, on which as a cool spot would collect in the summer weather a green vegetable growth which made it very slippery; and you remember well when alone at the spring, in skirts,—for you had not yet been admitted into trousers,—you got thirsty and lay down on your stomach to get a drink out of the cool water, without a gourd or a tin cup; and just as you were succeeding you plouted in heels over head! How you managed to crawl out you never could remember, but you did it, and as, wet and dripping from head to foot, you mustered up the pathway to the house, you were quickened by the question, "Where 've you been?" when your answer was, "I fell into the spring, but got out again." The last words were thought to make a sufficient excuse for the first part of the reply. The old house, plain, but commodious and comfortable, received more than fifty years ago, however, a complete new dressing in new weather-boarding with white paint on the outside, whilst within, with other changes, the wide fire-places were taken out, and in their stead were placed modern fire-places for the "stone-coal" of the hills. This was the typical dwelling erected by the pioneer after he had conquered the wild ways of the wilderness, or by the pioneer's son when the pioneer's days on earth were ended. Many of this class of dwellings here and there over the lands of the Monongahela Valley

were of stone well dressed or of brick well laid, and as they still endure and will last for the hereafter they are at this day not unknown to all.

But, since the dwellings of the people of the middle days, which were the early homes of the strong men now in active life, we have had the turn-pike road and stage coach; the railroad; the telegraph; the telephone; the electric dynamo for both light and heat; the sewing machine; the typewriter, the spinning jenny for the old-time spinning wheel, natural gas and oil,—and now the automobile—both for town and country; and for the city, the arc-light hangs over paved streets, lined with sky-scrapers that tower to the skies. The mind cannot grasp at once all the great things we enjoy to make the labors of life lighter, which our forefathers had not; whilst the homes that we see to-day for the bringing up of the little ones, rival in comforts, conveniences and elegances the palaces looked upon by the people of the old worlds. Let us not speculate, however, as to what we yet may have, for our physical comforts and conveniences in the future, but

“Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul!

As the swift seasons roll,

Leave thy low-vaulted past;

Let each new temple, nobler than the last,

Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,

Till thou at length art free,

Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!”





18.11.19











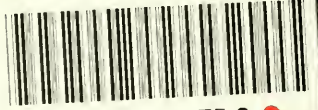








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